

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of processing a request in a web application, the method comprising:
  - obtaining a request that requires authentication;
  - locating an ancestor window for an active window of the web application; and
  - displaying a login page in the ancestor window.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the request in the active window.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising closing the active window.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the active window comprises a modal window.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the ancestor window comprises a top level window.

6. A method of processing a request in a web application, the method comprising:
- receiving the request from a client;
  - determining that the request requires authentication; and
  - providing a login page to the client, wherein the login page ensures display in a top level window.
7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
- receiving login information from the login page; and
  - authenticating the login information.
8. The method of claim 7, further comprising fulfilling the request when the login information is successfully authenticated.
9. The method of claim 6, wherein the determining step includes determining that a request has not been fulfilled for a client for more than a time out period.
10. The method of claim 6, wherein the login page ensures display in a top level window using the following steps:
- locating an ancestor window for an active window for the web application; and
  - displaying the login page in the ancestor window.

11. The method of claim 6, wherein the login page ensures display in a top level window using the following steps:

determining that an ancestor window for an active window for the web application is closed;

opening a new top level window; and

displaying the login page in the new top level window.

12. A system for processing a request in a web application, the system comprising:
- a communication system for receiving the request from a client;
  - a request system for determining whether the request requires authentication; and
  - a login system for ensuring that a login page is displayed in a top level window for the web application.
13. The system of claim 12, further comprising:
- an interface system for providing pages to the client; and
  - a display system for displaying the pages in hierarchical windows on the client.
14. The system of claim 13, wherein the request is generated in a child window, and wherein the display system opens a new top level window to display the login page.
15. The system of claim 13, wherein the request is generated from a child window, and wherein the display system displays the login page in an ancestor window of the child window.
16. The system of claim 12, wherein the login system further receives login information and authenticates the login information.

17. A program product stored on a recordable medium for processing a request in a web application, which when executed comprises:

program code for obtaining the request from an active window for the web application, wherein the request requires authentication;

program code for locating a top level window for the web application; and

program code for displaying a login page in the top level window.

18. The program product of claim 17, wherein the program code for locating includes program code for determining that the active window is a child window.

19. The program product of claim 18, wherein the program code for locating further includes program code for locating an ancestor window for the active window.

20. The program product of claim 18, wherein the program code for locating further includes:

program code for determining that an ancestor window for the active window is closed;

and

program code for opening a new top level window.